

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-4 and 7-18 are allowed.

In regards to claim 1, the prior art does not disclose or suggest a converter adapted to transform an electrical signal into a sound signal, wherein said converter is situated in said duct and is directly inside the fluid flowing; and a duct located inside a case let alone a combination of: a first leak tight case having at least one inlet opening suitable for sucking in said fluid, and an outlet opening, and also a first electrical connection passage; a filter cartridge; means for mounting the filter cartridge in association with the inlet opening of the first case; an impeller having at least one inlet port for sucking in said fluid contained in said first case, and an outlet orifice for delivering said sucked-in fluid, said impeller having a drive motor controllable via a power supply input; means for mounting said impeller in the inside of the first case; a duct for connecting the outlet orifice of the impeller to the outside of the first case, said duct passing in leak tight manner through the outlet opening of the first case; a second case; a second electrical connection passage made through the wall (49) of said second case; a source suitable for delivering electrical energy to an output terminal, said source being disposed in the inside of the second case; an electronic control circuit; means for associating the first and second cases in such a manner that the first and second electrical connection passages form a single leak proof third electrical connection passage; a flow meter disposed inside the duct, said flow meter having an outlet suitable for delivering an electrical signal representative of the flow rate of fluid

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passing along the duct; a first electrical connector for connecting the output of the flow meter to a first input of the electronic control circuit; a second electrical connector for connecting a first control output of the electronic control circuit to the control input of the motor for driving the impeller; and a third electrical connector for connecting the electrical energy source to a power supply input of the electronic control circuit; said electronic control circuit further including an output suitable for delivering a first alarm signal when the level of electrical energy delivered by said source drops below a determined threshold value, a converter controllable from a control input, said converter being adapted to transform an electrical signal into a sound signal; and a fifth electrical connector for connecting the control terminal of the converter to that output of the electronic control circuit that is adapted to deliver said first alarm signal, said converter being situated in said duct so that the converter is directly inside the fluid flowing in the duct.

Claims 2-4 and 7-18 are dependent on claim 1 and is therefore further found allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samantha A. Miller whose telephone number is 571-272-9967. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve McAllister can be reached on 571-272-6785. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Samantha Miller
Examiner
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1/29/2010

/Steven B. McAllister/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3749